

# City of Cincinnati



Office of the City Manager

Room 152, City Hall  
801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-5706  
Phone (513) 352-3241  
Fax (513) 352-6284

April 18, 2005

Valerie A. Lemmie  
*City Manager*

Dear Community Leader:

The enclosed copy of the Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight* (Citizen's Guide) is designed to strengthen our partnership in achieving safer and cleaner neighborhoods. Concerned citizens are encouraged to utilize the Citizen's Guide and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. The Citizen's Guide provides an overview of several common violations, their regulatory authority and enforcement procedures. It encourages citizens to correct these issues on their own property and to help seek additional corrections by communicating with their neighbors, either directly or through the community council, prior to submitting a formal complaint. Our goal: **To Transform the City of Cincinnati and its Neighborhoods into high quality environments benefiting our residents, workers, investors and visitors.**

The Citizen's Guide is one of four new tools being developed thorough our Code Enforcement Initiative to improve the quality of life in the City of Cincinnati. See the enclosed Outcomes for the Code Enforcement Initiative for details. In summary these tools are:

- Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight* – Distribution in April to coincide with the Great American Clean – Up
- Neighborhood Quality of Life Unified Code (NQOL), - Field test concept in selected area from April to June
- Neighborhood Code Enforcement Response Teams (NCERT Teams) expanded to coincide with Police Districts, - Begin in April to coincide with the Great American Clean – Up, and
- The Strategic Application of Abatement and Enforcement Resources

The Citizen's Guide will be distributed to community councils, CPD Neighborhood Officers, The Community Police Partnering Center, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and other key civic and housing organizations. The Citizen's Guide will be posted on the City's web site at [www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov) by the Great American Clean-Up on April 23, 2005

and will serve as a tool for continued community participation in achieving a safer and cleaner City. Additional color copies of the Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight* can be printed from the city's web site.

I gratefully acknowledge the work of our code enforcement departments in producing this Citizen's Guide and our partnership with the Community Police Partnering Center and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. I trust that this Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight* will be an additional resource for our community councils and other civic and housing organizations to continue our partnership in improving the quality of life for our citizens.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valerie A. Lemmie', is positioned above the printed name.

Valerie A. Lemmie  
City Manager

cc: City Department Directors and Division Heads

Enclosures: Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight*  
Outcomes of the Code Enforcement Initiative

## OUTCOMES OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

**GOAL** To Transform the City of Cincinnati and its Neighborhoods Into High Quality Environments benefiting Our Residents, Workers, Investors And Visitors.

**VISION** Concerned citizens will be empowered to utilize strategies that result in improved quality of life. City staff will increase effectiveness and efficiency in code enforcement activities.

**OUTCOMES** The City of Cincinnati is taking important next steps implementing the following **four new tools**, in partnership with our citizen's, to achieve safer and cleaner neighborhoods:

- Citizen's Guide for Community Action: *Addressing Nuisance Complaints and Neighborhood Blight* – Distribution in April to coincide with the Great American Clean – Up
- Neighborhood Quality of Life Unified Code (NQOL), - Field test concept in selected area from April to June
- Neighborhood Code Enforcement Response Teams (NCERT Teams) expanded to coincide with Police Districts, - Begin in April to coincide with the Great American Clean – Up, and
- The Strategic Application of Abatement and Enforcement Resources.

### KEY PARTICIPANTS, EXPECTATIONS, BENEFITS AND MEASUREMENTS

Key Participant	Expectations	Benefits	Measurements
Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased understanding of selected code requirements</li> <li>• Increased identification of selected code violations                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self</li> <li>○ Neighbors</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Use of complaint letters</li> <li>• Prompt abatement of code violations</li> <li>• Reduced blight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better maintained buildings and lots</li> <li>• Cleaner and safer neighborhoods</li> <li>• Increased retention of residents, businesses and services</li> <li>• Increased property values within a three year period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in the number of vacant buildings, Photo documentation</li> <li>• Increased use of the CSR system</li> <li>• Hamilton County auditors valuations</li> <li>• Blight Index</li> </ul>
City Code Enforcement Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased understanding of selected code requirements</li> <li>• Increased identification of selected code violations</li> <li>• Improved collaboration with other code enforcement staff</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of governmental and private resources available to assist with abating current preventing future code violations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job retention due to increased coverage and quality of service</li> <li>• Professional development due to cross training of skills and knowledge bases</li> <li>• More effective and efficient enforcement of selected code violations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of inspectors in departments</li> <li>• NQOL training for NCERT Teams, Law and B&amp;I, Health, Fire, Police, and Public Services inspectors</li> <li>• Number of code inspections</li> </ul>
City Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide necessary resources                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Training</li> <li>○ Equipment</li> <li>○ Compensation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased coordination and facilitation of code enforcement activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More code enforcement at a lower cost</li> <li>• Improved intra and inter departmental communications</li> <li>• Reduced blight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of inspections</li> <li>• Number of departments in CSR &amp; Permits Plus</li> <li>• Number of new permits</li> </ul>
City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher quality service to citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformed neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Citizens above</li> </ul>